



powell street festival society

パウエル祭協会

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POWELL STREET FESTIVAL ISSUES STATEMENT REGARDING OPPENHEIMER PARK

For Immediate Release

Vancouver, B.C. (July 4, 2019) - The 43rd Powell Street Festival will take place on August 3 and 4, 2019. The Festival is a celebration of Japanese Canadian arts and culture taking place in Vancouver's historic Paueru Gai neighborhood. The production of this festival is an act of empowerment and a way to connect people and communities. The community has deep ties to the area as it is the historic neighborhood of the Japanese Canadians prior to their forced removal by the Canadian government in 1942.

“We recognize that our activities take place on the unceded territory of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh nations and acknowledge our own role in the history of settler colonialism and dispossession of the Indigenous people,” stated Powell Street Festival Society president Edward Takayanagi. “Our Festival Map has been designed to work with the current residents of the neighborhood.” In the heart of the neighborhood, in Oppenheimer Park, many people have erected tents and are living in the park. “As a community that has experienced forced displacement, we refuse to continue this pattern of dispossession of vulnerable people in this area,” continued Takayanagi. “In respect for the current residents and the occupants of the park, they have designed their festival and program to ensure the people in the park are not displaced while providing a rich cultural experience for festival goers”.

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